

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 962  
By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to recognize Colonel Wallace Stanley Tyson on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those exceptional Tennesseans whose achievements constitute an unparalleled record of exemplary service to our State and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is Colonel Wallace Stanley Tyson who, in a long and distinctive career of service, will celebrate his much deserved retirement on May 29, 2006, from his post as the Veterans Service Officer for Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, born in 1930 in Nashville, Tennessee, Wallace Tyson was the second of three children born to T and Eva Tyson; he attended Eakin Elementary School, Clemons Elementary School, Cavert Junior High School, and graduated in June of 1948 from West End High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tyson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee in June of 1952 and, as one of three Distinguished Military Graduates, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, after Basic Officer training in Fort Benning, Georgia, followed by airborne training in December of 1952, Wallace Tyson was assigned to the 188th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 11th Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, while stationed at Fort Campbell, Mr. Tyson met Dorothy Lane of Franklin, Tennessee, and they were married in August of 1953 in a service held in the Regimental Chapel; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1953, Wallace Tyson received orders to Korea, where he spent a sixteen-month tour with assignments to the Korean Military Advisory Group, the 2nd Infantry Division, and the 8th U.S. Army Honor Guard; returning home in February of 1955, Mr.

Tyson was assigned to the 41st and 42nd Military Government Companies at Fort Gordon, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, while in Georgia, Mr. Tyson participated in interpost softball competition and, hitting at just over .500, he was named to the Post fast pitch All Star Softball Team; and

WHEREAS, Wallace and Dorothy Tyson's first child, Teresa, was born in Augusta, Georgia, in 1956, and their second child, Eric, was born in Columbus, Georgia, in 1958; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Mr. Tyson, then a Captain, was assigned to the ROTC unit at Middle Tennessee State College in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and his primary area of instruction was Military History; the Tysons joined Trinity United Methodist Church and became active Sunday School teachers; Dorothy Tyson also served as the church secretary and Wallace Tyson became a member of the Optimists and coached one of its Little League baseball teams; and

WHEREAS, in August of 1964, the family moved to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, with an assignment to the 25th Infantry Division; in December of 1965, the Division was ordered to Vietnam, and his battalion was deployed to the Central Highlands west of Pleiku; and

WHEREAS, while in Vietnam, Wallace Tyson was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Silver Star; upon returning stateside in December of 1966, he was assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington, followed by a tour at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the next three years were spent in Washington, D.C. with duty at the Pentagon in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, after relocating his family back to Franklin, Tennessee, Lieutenant Colonel Tyson returned to Vietnam for a second tour of duty, and in September of that year he was given command of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, a unit of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division; his battalion conducted operations in War Zone D and was responsible for an area encompassing some 500 square miles of jungle and low foot hills; the 1st/12th Cavalry was the second to last battalion to leave Vietnam, and Lieutenant Colonel Tyson returned his battalion colors to Fort Hood, Texas, in June of 1972; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tyson's next assignment was as Chief of the Force Structure Division Headquarters, in Fort Monroe, Virginia; a few months later he was selected to attend the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania; he was promoted to Colonel while in attendance, and

attended Shippensburg State College in the evenings, earning a Master's degree in Mass Communications; and

WHEREAS, in January of 1975, Colonel Tyson and his family moved to Germany where he had a dual role as Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and as Post Commander of Panzer Kaserne; at the completion of his command tour, the family retired from military life and built a home on Cotton Lane in Franklin, Tennessee, on a farm Dorothy Tyson's father had managed since 1936; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from active service, Colonel Wallace Tyson became an active and important part of his community; he served as the president of the Franklin Kiwanis in 1987, a member of the Williamson County Board of Zoning Appeals from 1984 to 1996, a part-time county schoolteacher, and manager of the Lynwood Utility Wastewater Treatment System; he also served as County Commissioner for the 9th District and as Commissioner for the Williamson County Road Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tyson is also a committed writer, and has authored three books, *Those Were the Glory Years*, a history of West End High School, *Catch the Spirit*, a sesquicentennial history of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, and *Command Tour, Viet Nam*; and

WHEREAS, in June of 1995, Wallace Stanley Tyson was hired as the Veteran Services Officer for Williamson County; during his exemplary tenure, Colonel Tyson not only oversaw the creation of the Williamson County Veteran's Memorial Park, he also worked tirelessly over the last ten years to help veterans receive benefits and grants exceeding 73 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Tyson has been fortunate to enjoy the love and support of his wife, the former Dorothy Virginia Lane of Franklin, Tennessee, and his two children, Teresa Lane Tyson Bennett, a Youth Services Officer for Williamson County Juvenile Services, and Eric Stanley Tyson, an Air Traffic Controller at the Nashville International Airport; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Tyson are active and devout members of Bethlehem United Methodist Church and both have served faithfully on several church committees; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Wallace Tyson exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding American and valorous military officer has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity throughout his distinguished career, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Colonel Wallace Stanley Tyson our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, thank him for his distinguished and gallant service to the State of Tennessee and our Nation, and offer him our best wishes for every success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.